(e) whether it is also a fact that the provision relating to fixation of prices of imported bulk drugs has been dispensed with; and

(f) if so, how indigenous production will be encouraged?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (f) The required details to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment in Postal Department

1437. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lift the ban on the recruitment of staff in Postal department;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no ban to fill up the vacancies arising out of promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal/removal or deputation. Newly created posts can also be filled up wherever justified and necessary with the approval of the Government.

(b) No recruitment has taken place in the grade of Postal Asstts. because a large number of RTPs recruited before 1984 have still to be absorbed. There is however, a ban on the creation of new posts, except with the approval of the Government.

(c) The only reason for not recruiting Postal Assistants is the non-availability of vacancies, which are filled up by promotion and by RTPs (Reserve Trained Pool candidates).

Communication facilities in Bastar District

1438. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of communication facilities in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to provide at least the basic minimum communication facility to this largest tribal district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present one MAX-II exchange with 600 lines capacity, 14 MAX-III exchanges with 465 lines capacity and three manual exchanges with 250 lines capacity are existing in the district. In addition 130 LDPTs are also working in the District. On the postal front, the district is now being served by a network of 552 post offices. During the current year it is proposed to open 2 more post offices.

Loan to IDPL and HAL

1439. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1988 and state:

(a) what was the amount of loan given to IDPL and HAL out of the Drug-Price Equalisation Account;

(b) when was this loan given to each of these two units and in how many instalments it is repayable by both the companies; and

(c) what is the rate of interest this loan carries and by when the first instalment of the loan would be due for repayment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No loan was given to M/s. HAL and M/s.

IDPL from the Drugs Prices Equalisation Account.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Industrial licence to M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester

1440. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester Limited, Bombay has made an application for industrial licence which was rejected in the past;

(b) whether there is any attempt to revive this application; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) In August 1987, M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester Ltd., Bombay had applied for substantial expansion of their capacity for manufacture of polyester film from 4516 TPA to 10016 TPA. They have been granted a letter of intent for an additional capacity of 5500 TPA for manufacture of Polyester film.

NPTC collaboration with foreign firms

1441. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is insisting for joint undertaking from foreign collaborators of Indian public undertakings like BHEL for the power station equipment;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is being insisted in spite of the hefty collaboration fees and big royalty charges;

(c) whether Government will direct NTPC not to insist for such joint undertakings from the foreign collaborators; and

(d) if so, what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The NTPC are asking for joint undertaking for the guaranteed equipment performance from foreign collaborators of proven experience only in such cases where the experience of the Indian party is not adequate to meet the basic minimum requirements. This practice helps the NTPC to avoid the risk of sub-optimal equipment installation and also affords an opportunity to the Indian party for technological upgradation, thus enabling them to compete in global markets. However, when the level of experience of the Indian party attains the requisite standards, the necessity of collaborator's guarantee for equipment performance is dispensed with.

Import of equipments by NTPC

1442. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has spent precious foreign exchange/World Bank aid on auxiliary equipments for the power stations by inviting global tenders;

(b) whether it is a fact that there smaller equipments were well within the capabilities of Indian manufacturers; and

(c) whether it is a fact that while inviting global tenders for these smaller equipments, several 500 MW TG sets were purchased by NTPC on single tender basis; if so, what are the details of the same and the foreign beneficiary party and value of such order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Global tenders for the procurement of